

As Home Secretary, Colonial Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Prime Minister, Leader of the Liberal Party for twenty years and one of the authors of the Reform Bill, he had his place in the sun. "I have been received with quite as much favour as I deserved." There is also an unusual readiness to confess mistakes. He ought to have talked to Palmerston instead of dismissing him from the Foreign Office by letter in 1851. He should have stopped the sailing of the Alabama without waiting for the opinion of the Law Officers. He regrets his resignation from the Aberdeen Cabinet, though he blames himself for joining it still more. Had he been Premier, he explains, he would have told Turkey that unless she accepted the Austrian project of conciliation as it stood, since it had already been accepted by Russia, we should give her no further support. In this way, he believes, the Crimean War might have been averted. Some interesting pages are devoted to sketches and anecdotes of distinguished contemporaries. Travelling with Lord and Lady Holland in Spain during the Peninsular War he was greatly impressed with Wellington's coolness in action. At Elba he found Napoleon so restless that he reported that the eagle would try to escape from his cage. He confutes Macaulay's assertion that oratory is essential to Parliamentary success by the examples of Castlereagh and Althorp. The House of Commons, the noblest assembly of freemen in the world, likes a man it can trust. The former, who combined high character with a detestable policy, was a very confused speaker, and on one occasion he exhorted the country gentlemen not to turn their backs on themselves. Althorp hated office and longed for release. Of himself he modestly declares "Eloquence I had none." Brougham's speech in defence of Queen Caroline was the most wonderful effort he ever heard, but no

one trusted
him. Pitt in his liberal days, Canning and
Wellington, are
praised, while the selfishness of their die-hard
followers is
rebuked. The Tories, he declares, made a great
mistake after
1815 in not scrapping the measures which war
alone could
justify and considering wisely, liberally and
maturely what
was the policy which in days of peace might be
expected to
prevail in Parliament and the nation. As
Canning truly said,
the great bulk of the Tory party, professing to
worship Pitt,
adored him as the pagans of the East adore the
sun—only in
his eclipse. Since they only made concessions
when public
opinion was too strong for them, it fell to the
Whigs to lead
the nation along the path of ordered liberty.
There is nothing